

such as a terrorist attack using chemical or biological weapons.

Leaders at every level of government have a responsibility to confront dangers before they appear and engage the American people on the best course of action. It is vital that our Nation discuss and address the threat of pandemic flu now. There is no pandemic flu in our country or in the world at this time, but if we wait for a pandemic to appear, it will be too late to prepare, and one day many lives could be needlessly lost because we failed to act today.

By preparing now, we can give our citizens some peace of mind knowing that our Nation is ready to act at the first sign of danger and that we have the plans in place to prevent and, if necessary, withstand an influenza pandemic.

Thank you for coming today to let me outline my strategy. Thank the United States Congress for considering this measure. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:04 a.m. in the William H. Natcher Conference Center at the National Institutes of Health. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Funding for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response

November 1, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Today, I outlined a strategy to address the threat of avian and pandemic influenza. This strategy is designed to meet three critical goals: to detect and contain outbreaks before they spread across the world, to protect the American people by stockpiling vaccines and antiviral drugs and accelerating the development of new vaccine technologies, and to ensure that Federal, State, and local communities are prepared for potential domestic outbreaks.

To provide the necessary resources to immediately begin the implementation of this strategy, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests, totaling \$7.1 billion, for

the Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Defense, Homeland Security, the Interior, State, and Veterans Affairs, as well as for International Assistance Programs.

I hereby designate the proposals in the amount requested herein as emergency requirements, and I urge the Congress to act expeditiously on this request to ensure the country is prepared for this growing danger.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Executive Order 13389—Creation of the Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding Council

November 1, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5121–5206) (the “Stafford Act”), and in order to further strengthen Federal support for the recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to provide effective, integrated, and fiscally responsible support from across the Federal Government to support State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, and faith-based and other community humanitarian relief organizations in the recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Sec. 2. Establishment. (a) There is established, within the Executive Office of the President, the Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding Council (the “Council”). The Assistant to the President for Economic Policy shall serve as the Chairman of the Council (the “Chairman”). The Council shall consist exclusively of the following members or full-time Federal officers or employees designated by them, respectively:

- (i) Secretary of the Treasury;
- (ii) Secretary of Defense;
- (iii) Attorney General;
- (iv) Secretary of the Interior;
- (v) Secretary of Agriculture;
- (vi) Secretary of Commerce;
- (vii) Secretary of Labor;
- (viii) Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (ix) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
- (x) Secretary of Transportation;
- (xi) Secretary of Energy;
- (xii) Secretary of Education;
- (xiii) Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- (xiv) Secretary of Homeland Security;
- (xv) Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (xvi) Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers;
- (xvii) Administrator of the Small Business Administration;
- (xviii) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (xix) Coordinator of Federal Support for the Recovery and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Region;
- (xx) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
- (xxi) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy;
- (xxii) Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism; and
- (xxiii) Such other officers and employees of the executive branch as the Chairman may from time to time designate.

(b) The Chairman, in consultation with the Coordinator, shall convene and preside over meetings of the Council, determine its agenda, direct its work, and, as appropriate to particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the Council, which shall consist of Council members or their designees under subsection 2(a) of this order, and including those officers and employees of the executive branch as designated by the Chairman.

Sec. 3. Functions of Council. The Council shall:

- (a) at the request of the Chairman, the Coordinator of Federal Support for the Recovery and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Region, or any agency head who is a member of the Council (subject to the approval of the Chair-

man), promptly review and provide advice and guidance, for the purpose of furthering the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, regarding any issue relating to the implementation of that policy;

- (b) make recommendations to the President, as appropriate, regarding any issue considered by the Council pursuant to section 3(a) of this order; and

- (c) give no vote or veto over the activities or advice of the Council to any individual to whom subsection (b) of this section refers.

Sec. 4. General. (a) To the extent permitted by law:

- (i) agencies shall assist and provide information to the Council for the performance of its functions under this order; and

- (ii) the Director of the Office of Administration shall provide or arrange for the provision of administrative support to the Council.

- (b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

- (c) This order shall be implemented in a manner consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

- (d) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 5. Termination. The Council shall terminate 3 years from the date of this order, unless extended by the President.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 1, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 3, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.

**Executive Order 13390—
Establishment of a Coordinator of
Federal Support for the Recovery
and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast
Region**

November 1, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*) and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5121–5206) (the “Stafford Act”), and to further strengthen Federal support for the recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to provide effective, integrated, and fiscally responsible support from across the Federal Government to support State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, and faith-based and other community humanitarian relief organizations in the recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita (the “Federal Response”).

Sec. 2. Establishment of Coordinator. The Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) shall establish in the Department of Homeland Security the position of Coordinator of Federal Support for the Recovery and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Region (Coordinator). The Coordinator shall be selected by the President and shall be appointed by and report directly to the Secretary. The Secretary shall make available to the Coordinator such personnel, funds, and other resources as may be appropriate to enable the Coordinator to carry out the Coordinator’s mission.

Sec. 3. Mission and Functions of Coordinator. (a) The Coordinator’s mission shall be to work with executive departments and agencies to ensure the proper implementation of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order by coordinating the Federal Response. The Coordinator shall be the principal point of contact for the President and his senior advisors with respect to the Federal Response.

(b) Working with the input of all appropriate heads of executive departments and agencies, the Coordinator shall lead the process to develop the principles governing and define the goals of the Federal Response. The Coordinator shall communicate those principles and goals to all Federal officials involved in the Federal Response.

(c) Working with the input of all appropriate heads of executive departments and agencies, the Coordinator shall lead the development and monitor the implementation of the specific policies and programs that constitute the Federal Response, and ensure that those policies and programs are consistent with the principles and goals of the Federal Response.

(d) The Coordinator shall serve as the primary point of contact within the executive branch with the Congress, State and local governments, the private sector, and community leaders regarding the Federal Response. Working with the input of all appropriate heads of executive departments and agencies, the Coordinator shall be responsible for managing information flow, requests for actions, and discussions regarding the Federal Response with the Congress, State and local governments, the private sector, and community leaders.

Sec. 4. Duties of Heads of Departments and Agencies. Heads of executive departments and agencies shall respond promptly to any request by the Coordinator, and shall, consistent with applicable law, provide such information as the Coordinator deems necessary to carry out the Coordinator’s mission, and shall otherwise cooperate with the Coordinator to the greatest extent practicable to facilitate the performance of the Coordinator’s mission.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) authority granted by law to an agency or the head thereof;
- (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals; or
- (iii) the chain of command over the Armed Forces provided in section 162(b) of title 10, United States Code.